

FAIRVIEW PARK

Long-time high school secretary Sandy Benhoff to retire

By **BRIAN GEORGE**

For 35 years, teachers and students have come and gone from Fairview High School. But during that time, there has been one constant: Sandy Benhoff.



Benhoff

But that ends Dec. 21 when the Fairview Park High School secretary retires.

"It has truly been a great honor to help the faculty, teachers, and students here in this district," Benhoff said. "I hate to leave, but there comes a time where it is time to go. Now it is time for me."

Leading up to her final day, the high school has been holding a "21 Days of Sandy Benhoff." Each day someone from her past visits.

She started studying K-8 Education at the University of Cincinnati with plans of being a teacher. From there, she landed jobs at the marketing department of Fifth Third Bank in Cincinnati.

"Soon, a handsome gentleman asked if I would like to live in Cleveland," Benhoff said. "We moved up here. One bright and beautiful day, I decided to pull up to the Board of Education. The Director of Personnel put me on the substitute list."

After a few years, she was offered the job as secretary to the assistant superintendent.

"At first, I wasn't sure whether or not I should take it," Benhoff said. "I was going to leave the school and go back home to think about it. But then, as I was walking the hallway, that I truly loved it there and that it would be a great opportunity. So I immediately turned back around and accepted the offer."

She's worked with 10 different school administration. Her responsibilities included keeping track of staff attendance and handling commencement.

"One of my biggest fears in this position has been the thought of misplacing the diplomas," Benhoff said with a laugh.

She has lived in Fairview Park for her entire career here," Her daughter graduated from Fairview High School, Fairview High School Principal Chris Vicha said.

"She was highly engaged in all the opportunities and activities that Fairview had to offer," Vicha said. "Sandy was the traditional engaged mother and employee of Fairview. She was an active PTA member and a fundraising chairperson. She's done all of those things for so many years, and she's poured her life, heart and soul into this."

Benhoff plans to spend her retirement doing things she

hasn't done in years

"My husband had his own traveling agency, so I've been to Hawaii 13 times and I've been to Paris, so it'll be nice to go there again," she said. "It has been a truly wonderful experience and community. If I had the opportunity, I would do it all over again. And there aren't that many people out there that can say that."

Vicha said that what he has always appreciated about her is that she always brought a certain level of gravitas to that position.

"She has a lot of love and respect for the traditions and honor of Fairview High School," he said. "She has been absolutely a key person to keep those traditions moving forward. For example, the overall feel that Fairview High School is an amazing school and students should not only be honored to not only go here but to graduate from here, and tell about the great experiences they had here. As Sandy leaves, that's going to leave a position where I've got to find the next person that's going to fill those shoes and that will carry those types of traditions and those ideas forward."

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